

# LONG ISLAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

January - February 1992

Vol. 2, No. 1

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Long Island Botanical Society enters its sixth year with this issue of the Newsletter. The organization has achieved a healthy momentum during the past five years, and efforts are underway to increase that momentum.

This issue of the Newsletter is being sent to over 250 individuals. Some of our new readers may not be familiar with the Long Island Botanical Society. We are a group of professional and amateur botanists dedicated to the promotion of field botany and a greater understanding of the plants that grow wild on Long Island, New York. Located at the northern limit of the Atlantic coastal plain floristic province, we have some of the more extraordinary, species-rich natural areas in New York State.

The society is very active with monthly programs, an ambitious schedule of field trips, and several active committees. The Flora Committee meets monthly to work on an atlas of Long Island's vascular plants. The Education Committee continues to receive requests for its travelling exhibit.

An organization's strength lies in its membership. If you are already a member, please renew soon; if you are not a member, please consider joining us. With your support the L.I. Botanical Society can continue to fulfill the goals it has committed itself to.--Eric Lamont

### PROGRAMS

January 14, 1992 - 7:30pm,

**Dr. Steven Clemants,**

"Early Botanists of New York", Uplands Farm Nature Center, Cold Spring Harbor.

February 11, 1992 - 7:30 pm,

**Dr. Andrew Greville,** "The Tropical Forests of Sri Lanka (Ceylon)", Uplands Farm Nature Center, Cold Spring Harbor.

## LICHEN WORKSHOP

A lichen workshop will be conducted at the Rancocas Nature Center in Mount Holly, Burlington County, New Jersey on Saturday, **January 4**, from 10:00 AM till about 3:00 PM. The morning will be taken up by discussion of Lichen morphology and identification. The afternoon will be a field trip to a nearby area in the New Jersey Pine Barrens (Lebanon State Forest) where numerous foliose and fruticose species should be found. Some discreet collecting will be possible. The Rancocas Nature Center is on Beverly - Rancocas Road about 1.7 miles E of Exit 45A on I-295. The workshop will be taught by Naomi Dicker and Karl Anderson. For additional information phone 609-261-2495, Tuesday through Sunday, from 9:00 to 5:00.

## 1991 FIELD TRIP REPORT

Eleven field trips were scheduled during 1991, spanning Long Island from Montauk Point to Jamaica Bay, and extending north to Bashakill Wildlife Refuge, Sullivan County. Plant species lists were prepared for many of the sites visited, courtesy of Betty Lotowycz and Barbara Conolly. The season started with a well-attended workshop on lichens, presented by Dick Harris (NYBG) at Quogue Wildlife Refuge. Trips in Nassau County included visits to: Planting Fields Arboretum, Massapequa Preserve, Muttontown Preserve, and Stillwell Woods (a joint trip with the Torrey Botanical Club); Suffolk County field trips included visits to: Warbler Woods, Prosser Pines, Big Reed Pond, Deerfield moraine, Calverton Ponds, and Caumsett State Park.

For volunteering their time and energy, special thanks are extended to the following field trip leaders: Skip Blanchard, Bob Cook, Andy Greville, Dick Harris, Carol Johnston, Eric Lamont, Mary Laura Lamont, Al Lindberg, Lois Lindberg, Betty Lotowycz, Chris Mangels, Carole Neidich-Ryder, Bill Paterson, and John Turner.

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# POLICY, PLANS FOR PROTECTION

## New York's Draft Open Space Conservation Plan

New York finally has a draft plan for conserving open space. Released for public comment on December 3, 1991, the draft plan and the final plan to follow are intended to help "define the kind of New York we leave for those who follow us."

The **Draft Open Space Conservation Plan**, prepared by the Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) will be available for public review and comment until 4:45 p.m., January 27, 1992. Public hearings will be held simultaneously in each NYSDEC region on January 16, 1992 (except in Utica - Jan. 15th). Local to most LIBS members are the following locations:

Clubhouse  
Bethpage State Park  
Bethpage, New York

Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
915 Broadway, 7th Floor  
New York, New York

At each hearing, the schedule is as follows:

10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Workshop  
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Public Hearing  
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Public Hearing

LIBS members are urged to review the document and make their opinions known, either in writing, in person, or, better yet, in writing and in person. You may obtain a copy by calling Sophie Morris at NYSDEC Region 1 headquarters in Stony Brook (751-7304).

The Draft Plan resulted from legislation in 1990 that amended the Environmental Conservation Law. It provided, in part, for the development of a State Land Acquisition Plan that would guide the selection of projects for future open space protection. The eight-chapter Draft Plan contains policy recommendations; protection objectives and strategies; cost estimates; alternatives for paying the costs; a description of the project eligibility, evaluation, and selection process to be used; and background and region-specific information. The Draft Plan includes the recommendation of the nine Regional Advisory Committees. As yet, the individual project recommendations of these committees remain

advisory to the NYSDEC and OPRHP: none have been endorsed or rejected.

Region 1's advisory committee compiled a list of more than 160 parcels (encompassing 25,000 acres in Nassau and Suffolk Counties) that it considered to be important open spaces. The list was used by the committee to "demonstrate the need for funding and to test the categories and evaluation schemes proposed by the State Plan." Intended to be periodically amended, the committee's list is not included in the Draft Plan, but is available for review in NYSDEC offices and OPRHP headquarters.

The Region 1 advisory committee did, however, identify in the document at least six "Resource Zones" - natural geographic areas that reflect the unique resources of the region:

- \*Special Groundwater Protection Areas (SGPA's)/Critical Environmental Areas
- \*South Shore Barrier Beaches
- \*Central Long Island Pine Barrens
- \*Peconic Estuary Watershed
- \*Long Island Sound Coastal Zone
- \*Wild, Scenic, Recreational River Corridors

Among other recommendations, the Region 1 committee strongly urges endorsement of a project evaluation procedure based on selections within "resource zones," using local resource and planning expertise, rather than a procedure based strictly on a numerical ranking system. Such a numerically based "point system," the committee asserts, cannot reflect the realities of regional character, economics, working landscapes, master plans, community goals, existing scientific studies, knowledgeable local individuals and organizations [note - this surely is one area where LIBS members come in], and unique natural resources.

Informed public input will be crucial in fashioning a final plan that truly serves regional and statewide needs. Please try to set aside some time to examine the Draft Open Space Conservation Plan and voice your opinions before the deadline of January 27, 1992. Of Course, you needn't have read through the document to attend the hearings and speak out for open space conservation. Your support will help the movement establish a funding mechanism for land acquisitions and implementation of other land conservation strategies.

Should another opportunity for State open space funding come along, such as a bond act, the final document will be used to guide the selection of lands to receive protection. Your shared knowledge and informed views could help shape the future of Long Island.--Louis Harrison

# L. I. BOTANICAL NOTES

The rediscovery of seabeach amaranth (*Amaranthus pumilus* Raf.) along Long Island's ocean beaches continues to intrigue botanists. Did it reappear as a result of Hurricane Hugo? How long will it remain established on Long Island? Seabeach amaranth was last observed in New York State in 1950. Sal Battaglia is credited with the rediscovery during the summer of 1990; since then over a dozen new populations have been located by Chris Mangels, Steven Clemants, and Bob Zaremba. See paper by Chris Mangels, NYFA Newsletter 2(2):7-8.

In early August of 1991, a new species of orchid was added to the flora of Long Island. Paul Martin Brown and Fred Knapp joined Steve Young and Eric Lamont to look for Spreading pogonia (*Cleistes divaricata* (L.) Ames). Instead of finding Spreading pogonia, they found a rare species of Adder's-mouth orchid (*Malaxis bayardi* Fern.). Currently, this is the only known population in New York.

Two weeds from Long Island are new State records. Tom Delendick (Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 117: 291-293. 1990.) recently reported *Acalypha australis* L., a Three-seeded mercury (Spurge Family), from 22 locations in and around New York City, including southern Brooklyn and eastern Queens. It occurs in sidewalk cracks, disturbed old fields, and along hedgerows. Dick Mitchell and Gordon Tucker (Rhodora 93: 192-194. 1991.) reported Japanese pearlwort (*Sagina japonica* (Sw.) Ohwi) from Prospect Park, Kings Co. This species is a new addition to the flora of the northeastern United States.

The Giant Kudzu vine (*Pueraria lobata* (Willd.) Ohwi), which grows at the rate of one foot or more a day, appears to be well-established in all five boroughs of New York City. Ed Frankel (Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 116: 390-394. 1989.) recently summarized all known New York populations of this "Scourge of the South." One population was reported by Arthur Bing from the "north shore of Long Island Sound in Lloyd Harbor off West Neck Road covering two acres belonging to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn."

Andy Geller et al. (Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 118: 330-332. 1991.) have added 68 new species of vascular plants to the flora of Cunningham Park, Queens County. Four species are new to the flora of New York, and eleven species are considered rare in New York. Andy may be contributing a future article to the LIBS NEWSLETTER.

A population of black-jack oak from Orient Beach State Park is the northeastern-most population of the species in North America. Other rare plants at the park

include: Scotch lovage (*Ligusticum scoticum* L.), wild pink (*Silene caroliniana* var. *pennsylvanica* (Michx.) Fern.), dwarf plantain (*Plantago pusilla* Nutt.), seabeach knotweed (*Polygonum glaucum* Nutt.), and another knotweed (*Polygonum tenue* Michx.). The only known extant Long Island locations for tower-cress (*Arabis glabra* (L.) Bernh.) and rock spikemoss (*Selaginella rupestris* (L.) Spring.) are at the park.

Two new floras are currently being prepared for two islands in the Township of Southold, Suffolk County. Gordon Tucker and Ed Horning are preparing an updated account of the vascular flora of Fishers Island, and Eric Lamont is preparing a flora of Shelter Island.

Bob Zaremba continues to make significant botanical discoveries on Long Island. Much of his L.I. work is concentrated at the east end of the South Fork. Recently Bob rediscovered the following species, previously known only from historical records: Wingstem (*Verbesina alternifolia* (L.) Britton), found for the first time on Long Island; *Oenothera oakesiana* Robbins, from the South Fork; *Carex venusta* var. *minor* Boeckeler from Fire Island; *Paspalum setaceum* var. *setaceum*, last seen in 1941 by Roy Latham; and a rare St. John's-wort, *Hypericum dissimulatum* Bickn., from the South Fork. See papers by Stephen Young. NYFA Newsletter 2(2):8-9 and 2(3):4.

Four other species of *Hypericum* are known in New York State only from Long Island: creeping St. John's-wort (*Hypericum adpressum* Barton), bushy St. John's-wort (*Hypericum densiflorum* Pursh), Coppery St. John's-wort (*Hypericum denticulatum* Walter), and St. Andrew's cross (*Hypericum hypericoides* ssp. *multicaule* (Michx. ex Willd.) Robson), seen on a LIBS field trip to Massapequa Preserve this summer.--compiled by Eric Lamont

## NYFA SMALL GRANTS

Small grants are now available from the New York Flora Association, "to foster field botany in New York State." NYFA is especially interested in obtaining voucher specimens to update the NYFA atlas of New York State plants. For more information call Steven Clemants at Brooklyn Botanic Garden (718-941-4044). The deadline for proposals is March 1.

[If you are interested in joining the New York Flora Association, please contact NYFA at: 3132 C.E.C., Albany, NY 12230. All new members receive a preliminary ATLAS OF NEW YORK STATE PLANTS.]



# REPORT OF THE LOCAL FLORA COMMITTEE

## FERNS AND FERN ALLIES OF LONG ISLAND

During the past two years about six of eight "regulars" have been meeting monthly to work on an atlas of Long Island's vascular plants. During the summer of 1991 the group recorded its knowledge of the distribution and abundance of the FERNS AND FERN ALLIES OF LONG ISLAND. Joe Beitel's personal records and maps were obtained from the New York Botanical Garden and incorporated into the data base.

Members of the committee will now visit major herbaria in New York to obtain additional historical information on these plants. Field work will continue through 1991 to locate extant populations of ferns and their allies on Long Island.

After completing this research and field work, the committee will submit a manuscript for publication in a botanical journal. The publication will be dedicated to the memory of Joe Beitel, who passed away on February 22, 1991.

[Note: the fern "allies" include clubmosses (*Lycopodium*, *Huperzia*, and *Lycopodiella*), spikemosses (*Selaginella*), quillworts (*Isoetes*), and horsetails (*Equisetum*). The fern "allies" are not directly related to the true ferns; rather, they are a group of primitive vascular plants that are more closely related to each other than to any other group of vascular plants.]--Eric Lamont

Do you need to know the most recent and correct scientific name for a plant? Are you interested in knowing current thought on the relationships between plant families? Well, you're in luck-Arthur Cronquist has answers for you.

The second edition of Manual of vascular plants of northeastern United States and adjacent Canada, by H. A. Gleason and Arthur Cronquist, is now available for \$69.00 from the New York Botanical Garden. For more information call the Garden bookstore at 212-220-8723. You may want to pick up a copy in person, and ask Dr. Cronquist to autograph it.

## FIELD TRIPS

25 Jan 1992 Brooklyn Botanic Garden. This trip will be lead by Steven Clemants. Meet in Rm 238 at 10:00 a.m. for a tour through the Steinhardt Conservatory and, if weather permits, around the grounds. For more information call Al Lindberg (516) 922-3123 or Steven Clemants (718) 941-4044

24-26 April 1992. The annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage in the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee. For more information call Eric or Mary Lamont at 516-722-5542.

## COSTA RICA TRIP

We are in the early stages of planning a field trip to Costa Rica. Tentative plans call for about 2 weeks in January 1993. For more information call Skip or Jane Blanchard at 516-421-5619.

## NY NATURAL HISTORY CONFERENCE II

The New York Natural History Conference II will be held in Albany from **April 29 - May 1, 1992**. Peter Raven, Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, will deliver the keynote address. For more information call Dick Mitchell (518-486-2027) or write: The New York Natural History Conference, Rm. 3132 C.E.C., Biological Survey, New York State Museum, Albany, NY 12230.

## JOE BEITEL FUND

We have already received several contributions to the Joseph Beitel Memorial Fund. The fund will be used to install a plaque at Big Reed Pond in memory of Joe. Checks may be made out to "Long Island Botanical Society," and sent to: Carol Johnston, 347 Duck Pond Road, Locust Valley, NY 11560.

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## Programs

January 14, 1992, 7:30 p.m., Uplands Farm Nature Center, Cold Spring Harbor.

Dr. Steven Clemants, taxonomist, Brooklyn Botanic Garden will talk on "Early Botanists of New York". In this talk he will point out the many important roles Botanists have played in the history of New York State.

February 11, 1992, 7:30 p.m., Uplands Farm Nature Center, Cold Spring Harbor.

Dr. Andrew Greller, Professor, Biology Department, Queens College will talk about "The Tropical Forests of Sri Lanka (Ceylon)." Dr. Greller has conducted years of research on this tropical Island in the Indian Ocean. Why would a botanist from Long Island travel half way around the world to study these forests? Find out how Dr. Greller predicted the occurrence of certain rare forest-types on Sri Lanka, before even visiting the island. [This program continues our "tropical theme" during the dead of winter.]

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### THANKS!

The membership extends its sincere appreciation to Lois Lindberg, for almost single-handedly running the Society during the past year. Thank you Lois for a job well-done!

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Do you have an article you would like to write for the Newsletter? Please send it to Steven Clemants and it will appear in the newsletter. The deadline for the March-April newsletter is Feb. 11, 1992.

I am also interested in receiving feedback on the new format for the Newsletter. Are there some things you want done differently? Please feel free to call or write.--Steven Clemants, Editor

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### Membership:

Membership is open to all, and we welcome any new members. Annual dues are \$10. For membership, make your check payable to LONG ISLAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY and mail to: Lois Lindberg, Membership chairperson, Welwyn Preserve, Crescent Beach Road, Glencove, NY 11542

### THE LONG ISLAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY - Membership 1992

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Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City & State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Interests \_\_\_\_\_

Annual dues are \$10.00. Please make check payable to LONG ISLAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY, and mail to:

Lois Lindberg, Membership chairperson  
Welwyn Preserve  
Crescent Beach Road  
Geln Cove, New York 11542

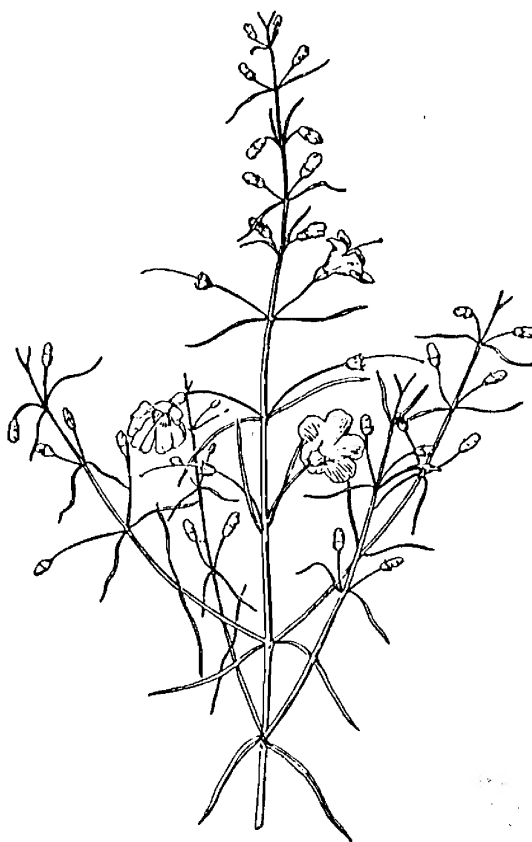
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LONG ISLAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 905  
LEVITTOWN, N.Y. 11756

Founded: 1986; Incorporated: 1989.

President	Eric Lamont
Vice President	Chris Mangels
Treasurer	Carol Johnston
Recrd Sec'y	Barbara Conolly
Cor'sp Sec'y	Jane Blanchard
Local Flora	Skip Blanchard
Field Trip	Al Lindberg
Membership	Lois Lindberg
Conservation	Louis Harrison
	John Turner
Hospitality	Nancy Smith
	Joanne Tow
Program	Eric Lamont
Editor	Steven Clemants

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